DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

NOV 15 2012

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate

The Honorable Mark Udall
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your November 5, 2012 letter concerning the FISA Amendments Act (FAA). We share the view that Congress must understand how the FAA has been implemented, particularly as it debates the reauthorization of these critical intelligence tools. As discussed in our earlier letters, the Executive Branch has engaged in substantial efforts to fully inform Congress about the use of these authorities, including formal classified briefings and hearings, classified written notifications and reports, discussions, briefings, and demonstrations with committee staff, and responses to inquiries from you and other Members.

I also share your interest in an informed public debate on the government's use of its intelligence collection authorities. As you know, it is my responsibility under the law to protect critical intelligence activities from public disclosure in order to safeguard sensitive sources and methods, including the government's acquisition of vital foreign intelligence information through FAA authorities. Our earlier publicly available letters, including my August 24, 2012 unclassified letter (with classified annex) responding to your July 26, 2012 inquiry, and General Alexander's November 13, 2012 letter, properly balance protecting classified information and informing the public of the manner in which FAA is implemented.

We cannot provide additional answers to your questions in an unclassified format. Rather than provide you with imprecise, unclassified information, I reiterate our offer to meet with you — and any other Members of Congress — in a classified setting to discuss these authorities and answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

James R. Clapper